

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for processing business metrics information in a system including a server, and at least one user device and a database communicably coupled to the server, said method comprising:

receiving operating and financial data for a business;

processing the data to generate business metrics;

comparing the business metrics to pre-defined parameters; and

displaying a status of the business metrics.

2. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the business metrics further comprises displaying a plurality of gauges which visually indicate a status of a respective business metric.

3. A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein displaying the business metrics further comprises displaying at least one gauge which visually indicates the position of a switch between an "ON" position and an "OFF" position.

4. A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising displaying business data associated with each business metric.

5. A method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein displaying business data associated with each business metric further comprises linking business data used in determining a status of each respective metric to each business metric.

6. A method in accordance with Claim 4 wherein displaying business data associated with each business metric further comprises linking business data to each respective visual display.

7. A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising notifying pre-defined users when a pre-determined threshold regarding a respective business metric is satisfied.

8. A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein notifying users further comprises defining the pre-determined thresholds that trigger the notifications.

9. A method in accordance with Claim 7 wherein notifying users further comprises defining which users receive the notifications when a pre-determined thresholds is satisfied.

10. A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising coupling a message center to the server.

11. A method in accordance with Claim 10 wherein coupling a message center further comprises receiving user inquiries regarding the business metric associated with the message center.

12. A method in accordance with Claim 10 wherein coupling a message center further comprises receiving user input regarding the business metric associated with the message center.

13. A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprises restricting access to the server system.

14. A business metrics management system comprising:

a computer;

a server configured with a database enabled for storing and retrieving a user interface, said server further configured to upload and store user input regarding business metrics in a database;

a network communicably coupled to the server; and

a user operated device communicatively coupled to the network.

15. A metrics management system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said system further configured to:

restrict access to unauthorized users.

notify users when pre-defined business metrics thresholds are satisfied.

display previously entered user inputs regarding the business metrics.

provide access to data relevant to each defined business metric.

entering business metrics data into the template;

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uploading the template into a database having enabled storage and retrieval capability for a business metric template; and

providing the business metric template to business management.

20. A method in accordance with Claim 19 further comprising:

assigning security access to users;

defining business metrics from the data stored within the database;

defining the template to visually indicate a status of the business metrics; and

updating the data on a pre-defined periodic basis.

21. A method in accordance with Claim 20 wherein defining the template further comprises:

defining which business metrics will be displayed within the template;

determining a layout of the template display;

determining a display format of a status of each business metric

22. A method in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising:

defining a group of users for each respective template; and

defining threshold values unique to a status of each business metric.

23. A method in accordance with Claim 22 further comprising notifying the pre-defined group of users when a threshold value for a business metric is satisfied.

24. A method in accordance with Claim 21 further comprising:

providing a web interface to the system;

receive inquiry inputs from a user regarding the business metrics;
display previously entered user inputs regarding the business metrics.
update data stored within said database;
transmit status updates to pre-defined users; and
store data relevant to each defined business metric.

29. Apparatus in accordance with Claim 26 wherein said server further configured to provide access to the template for visually displaying a status of each business metric.

30. An apparatus comprising:

means for providing an interface to a user;
means for configuring the interface to a template;
means for entering business metrics data in the template; and
means for storing and retrieving the template.

31. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 30 further comprising:

means for defining business metrics data in the template; and
means for displaying a status of business metrics data in the template.

32. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 31 further comprising:

means for transmitting a status of business metrics data to users;
means for restricting access to the business metrics data;
means for restricting access to the template; and

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means for retrieving additional business metrics data through the template.

33. An apparatus in accordance with Claim 32 further comprising:

means for posting user inquiries regarding the business metrics data such that such inquiries are viewable by other users;

means for retrieving previously entered user inquiries; and

means for updating the business metrics data in the template.

34. A computer-readable medium executable by a computer connected to a user device, for controlling the computer to:

receive a request to provide a web interface;

provide a web interface configurable to a template;

receive business metrics data in the template; and

store the template.

35. A computer-readable medium in accordance with Claim 34 for further controlling the computer to:

display a status of business metrics data in the template;

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receive a request defining visual display options in the template;
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store data associated with respective business metric data in the template; and

receive a request to define thresholds associated with respective business metric data in the template.

36. A computer-readable medium in accordance with Claim 35 for further controlling the computer to:

receive a request to define a group of users to be notified when threshold conditions are satisfied;

receive a request to define a group of users for access to the template;
and

receive user inquiries about the business metric data in the template;

37. A computer-readable medium in accordance with Claim 36 for further controlling the computer to:

store user inquiries regarding the business metric data in the template;

retrieve stored user inquiries regarding the business metric data; and

monitor access to the template.

38. A computer-readable medium in accordance with Claim 37 for further controlling the computer to:

monitor a status of business metric data in the template with respect to pre-defined thresholds;

transmit notifications when pre-defined thresholds with respect to the pre-defined thresholds are satisfied.

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